

Application No.: 10/720,197

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for fabricating a semiconductor device, comprising the steps of:

forming a thin film made of an inorganic material;

forming a resist film containing carbon on the thin film and thereafter patterning the formed resist film to form a resist pattern from the resist film;

exposing the resist pattern to a gas containing sulfur to improve a strength of sidewalls of the resist pattern; and

performing dry etching of the thin film using as a mask the resist pattern whose strength has been improved because of exposure to the gas containing sulfur.

2. (Original) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic material contains silicon, and an etching gas employed for the dry etching is a fluorocarbon gas.

3. (Original) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein the gas containing sulfur is sulfur dioxide.

4. (Original) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein the gas containing sulfur is in a plasma state.

5. (Original) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein the step of exposing the resist pattern to the gas containing sulfur and the step of performing dry etching constitute the same step.

Application No.: 10/720,197

6. (Previously presented) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein a line width of the resist pattern is 200nm or less.

7. (Previously presented) The method for fabricating a semiconductor device of Claim 1, wherein a value of the ratio of a height of the resist pattern to a line width thereof is 2.8 or more.